



## 3 PROGRESS AGAINST NUTRITION FOR GROWTH COMMITMENTS

**T**HE ISSUE OF NUTRITION HAD AN IMPORTANT MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT IN 2013. AT THE NUTRITION FOR GROWTH (N4G) SUMMIT IN LONDON THAT YEAR, governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, businesses, donors, and other organizations gathered to consider how to improve nutrition worldwide. Ninety of these stakeholders signed the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, in which they publicly committed to take concrete action against malnutrition. And the momentum spread further: an additional 20 stakeholders made commitments after the

### KEY FINDINGS

1. In response to requests for updates on their progress on meeting Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments, 83 percent of signatories responded in 2015, compared with 92 percent in 2014.
2. Results of progress in 2015 are similar to those for 2014. Forty-four percent of N4G commitments are assessed as “on course” in 2015, compared with 42 percent in 2014. Ten percent are “off course” in 2015, compared with 9 percent in 2014.
3. It is easier to hold actors accountable for their commitments if those commitments are specific, measurable, and time bound. Only 30 percent of N4G commitments meet these criteria.
4. The majority of stunting targets set by N4G country signatories are less ambitious than those generated by applying the global World Health Assembly (WHA) targets at the country level.

**TABLE 3.1** Response rates of N4G signatories, 2015

N4G signatory group	Number of progress requests issued beginning in January 2015	Number of responses received between January and June 2015	Response rate (%)
Countries	25	18	72
UN agencies	7	7	100
Civil society organizations	15	14	93
Companies – workforce	29	21	72
Donors – financial	10	10	100
Donors – nonfinancial	12	11	92
Other organizations	5	4	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>

Source: Authors.

compact was formulated and published. In spring 2015, two years after the summit, we invited those stakeholders to report on their progress on meeting their commitments. This chapter reports on whether stakeholders responded to our invitation, how clearly they responded, and whether they are on track to achieve their stated N4G commitments.

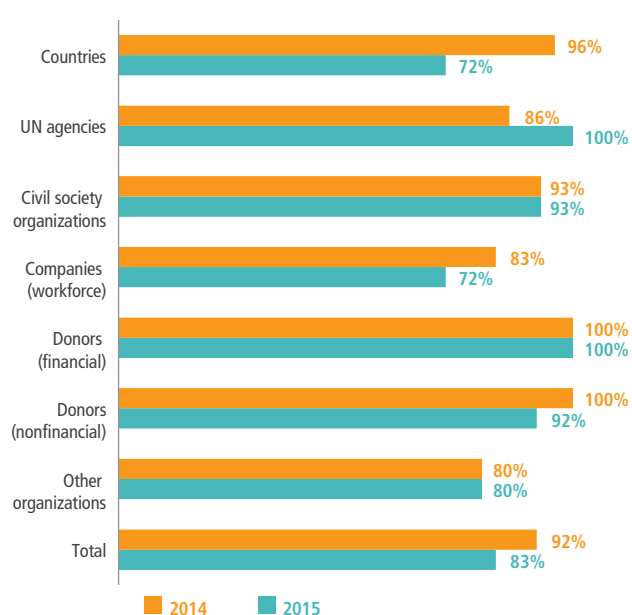
Here is how we measured their progress. As we did for the 2014 *Global Nutrition Report*, we divided the 110 stakeholders into six groups: national governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, businesses, donors,

and a group of organizations that did not easily fit in the other five categories. Each signatory was asked to report on progress since the 2014 *Global Nutrition Report* using a template tailored to its group. We followed up with responders in cases where clarification was needed and entered final responses into a set of detailed online N4G commitment tracking tables.

To assess progress, a team of four people—Meghan Arakelian, Jessica Fanzo, Lawrence Haddad, and Corinna Hawkes—reviewed the detailed N4G tracking tables for each signatory, made an independent assessment, and then collectively reviewed and reconciled the four independent reviews. The assessments relied as much as possible on objective criteria—for instance, did the signatory report meet a tangible target?—but also inevitably involved subjective assessments. All signatories went through the same assessment scale and ranking process. If progress reported for 2014–2015 reached the 2020 commitment, we assigned a status of “reached commitment.” If the report indicated sufficient progress was being made toward the commitment, we assigned a status of “on course”; if it was clear it did not, we assigned a status of “off course”; and if the extent of progress was unclear, we assigned “not clear.”

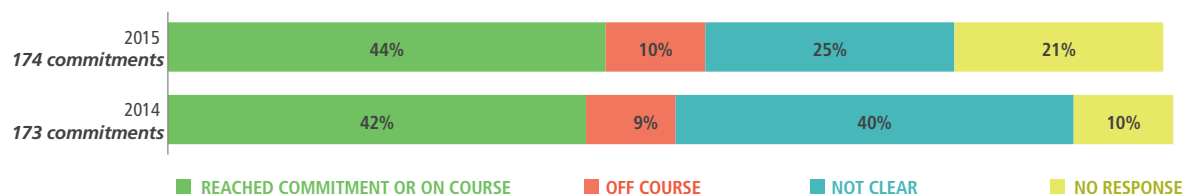
On this basis, we compiled a series of tables summarizing each signatory’s progress. In these tables, we also make clear which signatories did not send us the requested data by the date requested and which signatories did not make commitments in certain areas. The evidence on which our assessment was made can be viewed in the detailed online

**FIGURE 3.1** Response rates of N4G signatories



Source: Authors.

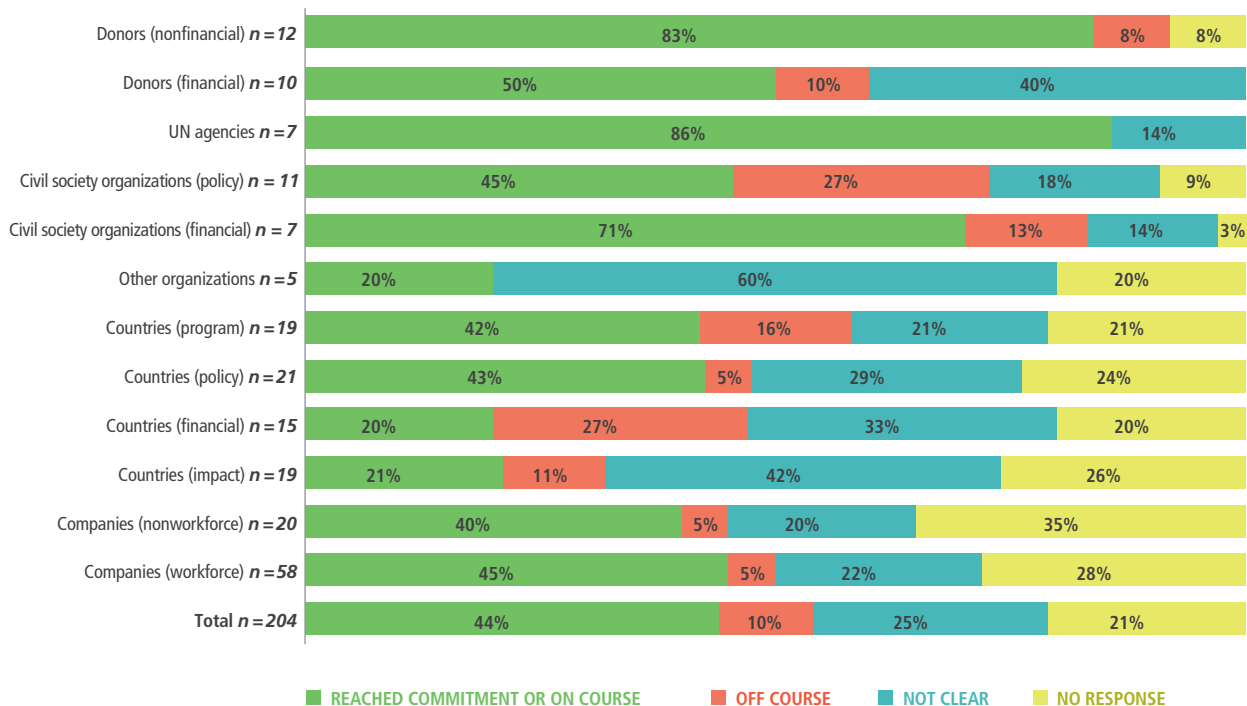
**FIGURE 3.2 Overall progress against N4G commitments, 2014 and 2015**



Source: Authors

Note: In 2013, 204 commitments were made, but the *Global Nutrition Report 2014* only included 173 of them because businesses were not ready to report on all of their commitments in 2014. Response rates in this figure are given only for commitments tracked in both 2014 and 2015. The number of commitments is 174 in 2015 and 173 in 2014 because Ethiopia did not separate out its N4G commitment into program and policy components in 2014, but in 2015 it did so and reported against them.

**FIGURE 3.3 Progress against N4G commitments by signatory group, 2015**



Source: Authors, based on information from N4G Compact signatories.

Note: n = the number of commitments by signatories in each category.

tracking tables ([www.globalnutritionreport.org](http://www.globalnutritionreport.org)). For signatories of interest, we encourage the reader to review the online tracking table reports to get a sense of the progress reported by each and to make their own assessments of progress.

What is different in this year's assessment process compared with the 2014 *Global Nutrition Report*?

First, we assess major donors' financial commitments against their N4G commitments for the first time. The

2014 *Global Nutrition Report* could not do this because the available data were for 2012, prior to the N4G commitment period of 2013–2020. Second, for all signatories we compare 2014 progress (2012 data) with 2015 (2013 data) and so provide a fuller perspective on progress. Third, we added a progress category of "reached commitment" for those signatories that actually reached their 2020 N4G commitment at this early stage. Fourth, we report on their businesses' N4G nonworkforce commitments, whereas in 2014 we only reported on their workforce commitments.

**TABLE 3.2** Assessment of countries' N4G commitments

Country	Impact commitments	Financial commitments	Policy commitments	Program commitments
Bangladesh	Not clear	On course	On course	On course
Benin	Not clear	None	Not clear	Off course
Burkina Faso	On course	None	Reached commitment	On course
Burundi	No response	None	No response	No response
Côte d'Ivoire	No response	No response	None	No response
Democratic Republic of the Congo	None	Not clear	On course	On course
Ethiopia	On course	On course	On course	On course
Gambia	No response	None	None	None
Guatemala	Off course	Off course	On course	Not clear
Indonesia	Off course	None	On course	On course
Liberia	None	Off course	Not clear	None
Malawi	None	Not clear	Not clear	On course
Mali	None	None	No response	None
Mauritania	No response	None	No response	None
Namibia	Not clear	None	None	Off course
Niger	No response	No response	No response	No response
Nigeria	On course	Not clear	On course	On course
Senegal	Not clear	On course	Not clear	On course
Sierra Leone	Not clear	Not clear	Off course	Off course
Sri Lanka	Not clear	Off course	None	None
Uganda	Not clear	None	Not clear	Not clear
United Rep. of Tanzania	On course	None	Reached commitment	None
Yemen	None	No response	No response	No response
Zambia	Not clear	Off course	On course	Not clear
Zimbabwe	None	Not clear	Not clear	Not clear

**Source:** Country SUN Focal Points provided the progress updates against commitments, and Arakelian, Fanzo, Haddad, and Hawkes made individual and collective assessments of progress against commitments.

**Note:** Reached commitment = reached the 2020 N4G commitment. On course = progress made is on course for meeting the N4G commitment. Off course = not enough progress has been made toward the N4G commitment. None = no N4G commitment was made. Not clear = the commitment was too vague to assess whether the commitment was met, or the reported evidence on progress was too vague or only partially reported. No response = country did not respond to requests for information.

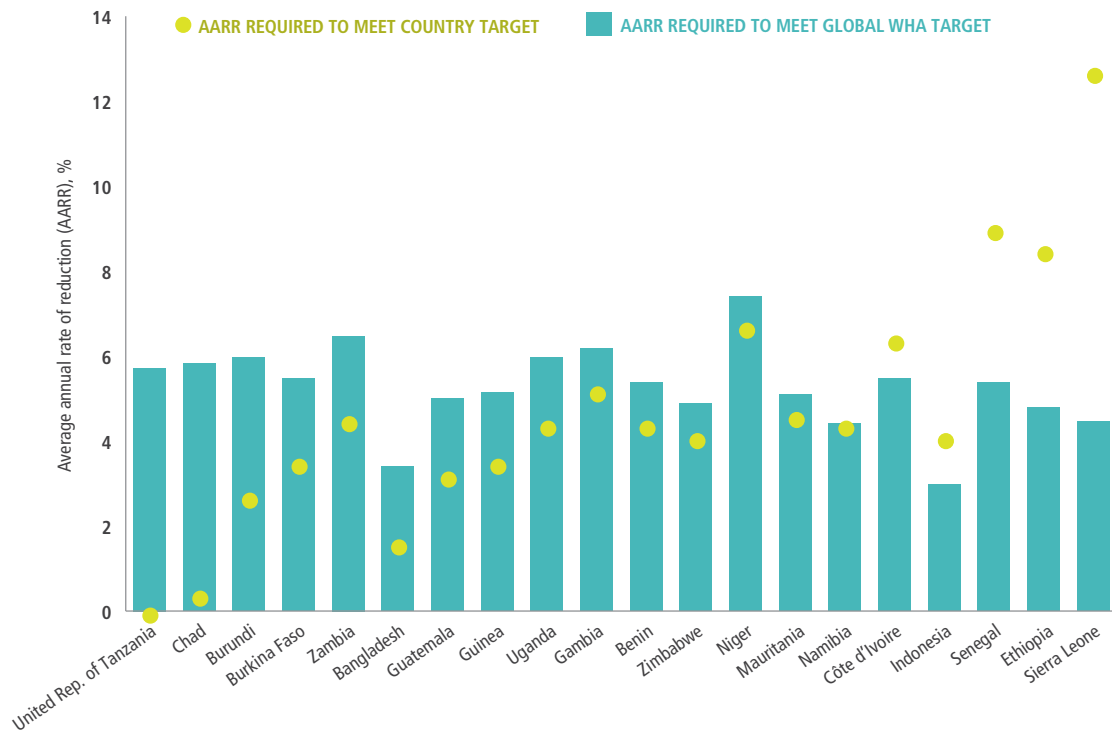
Finally, a number of new commitments—and progress against them—were submitted to us. These are either new commitments from N4G signatories or commitments from non-N4G signatories. We have included these commitments in the detailed online tracking tables, but because they were not solicited we have not made an assessment of them. We welcome the submission of new commitments and self-reported assessments against them, and for the 2016 *Global Nutrition Report* we will work out a process for an inclusive and systematic solicitation of new pledges.

## ASSESSED PROGRESS AGAINST N4G COMMITMENTS

We issued requests for progress updates from signatories beginning in January 2015 and accepted them until June 9, 2015 (Table 3.1). Response rates were lower in 2015 (83 percent) than in 2014 (92 percent) (see Figure 3.1). This year required more frequent follow-ups with signatories to get responses. Some countries were unable to respond or had setbacks in progress this year owing to unforeseen crises including conflict (in the case of Yemen) and the Ebola outbreak (in the case of Liberia and Sierra Leone). Other reasons for the lower response rate might include the abbreviated timeline for reporting (the 2015 *Global*



**FIGURE 3.4** Country stunting targets compared with global stunting targets applied at the country level



**Source:** Authors; required AARR for country targets is calculated by authors by comparing targets with the rates in the most recent survey in the WHO/UNICEF/World Bank database; required AARR to meet global target is calculated by WHO and UNICEF by comparing WHA targets applied at the country level with the baseline assumptions as specified in Chapter 2. Country targets are listed in N4G commitments (United Kingdom 2013).

**Note:** See Appendix Table A2.1 for complete data.

*Nutrition Report* reporting deadline was just 10 months after the 2014 report’s deadline) or reporting fatigue resulting from too many commitments and pledges. Companies (workforce commitments) and donors (nonfinancial commitments) were unable to respond as well this year as in 2014.

Nonresponse equals unaccountability. We urge the N4G signatories to recommit to reporting on the pledges they made just over two years ago. The success of the 2016 Rio N4G conference will depend on comprehensive reporting on 2013 N4G commitments.

Actual progress made—that is, whether signatories were on or off course—was similar in 2014 and 2015. The percentage of assessments that were “not clear” or “no response” decreased modestly from 50 percent in 2014 to 46 percent in 2015 (Figure 3.2).

Of 204 N4G commitments made and tracked, 44 percent were assessed as on course, 10 percent were off course, 25 percent had unclear reporting against the commitment, and 21 percent were not reported on (Figure 3.3). Countries struggled to be on course for their impact

and financial commitments, which are arguably more difficult to deliver on than the policy and program commitments. Civil society organizations were more likely to be assessed as on course for their financial commitments than for their policy commitments. Donors found it easier to report on their nonfinancial commitments than their financial commitments. Companies found it marginally easier to meet their workforce commitments than their nonworkforce ones. The UN agencies were assessed as being largely on course with their commitments, while the “other organization” category struggled to report clearly against their commitments.

### COUNTRIES

In the N4G Compact 25 governments committed themselves to reducing undernutrition in their countries. Of the 25 countries, 18 responded by the deadline. N4G commitments were classified into the following categories: impact/outcome commitments (related to, for example, WHA targets such as exclusive breastfeeding or stunting rates), financial commitments, policy commitments, and program commitments. Table 3.2 shows whether the 18

countries are on or off course based on their reported progress against these targets.

One of the issues raised in the 2014 *Global Nutrition Report* was, how much of a stretch are some of the commitments made by stakeholders? Here we analyze the specific, time-bound commitments to reduce child stunting that a number of countries set for themselves at the N4G Summit. Are those commitments more or less ambitious than the global target set by the WHA?

Figure 3.4 shows how fast 20 countries would need to reduce stunting to reach their own targets compared with how fast they would need to do so to reach the WHA global target, if that target were applied at the country level. Out of the group of 20 countries, nearly three-quarters of the N4G stunting targets are less ambitious than those implied by applying the WHA global targets at the country level. Future N4G targets on stunting need to match the ambition of the global targets.

## DONORS

Sixteen donors signed the N4G Compact, of which 10 made financial commitments and 11 made nonfinancial commitments. Seven made both financial and policy/program commitments, 3 made only financial commitments, 4 made only policy/program commitments, and 2 signatories made no new commitments.

Chapter 5 reports on donor nutrition financial performance for 2013 in a broader context. This section assesses donors' performance against N4G financial commitments, summarized in Table 3.3 (donors' performance and the basis for assessment are detailed in Appendix Table A2.2).

All 10 N4G donors that made financial commitments reported against these. Of the 10, 5 were on course and 2 were off course (just). For 3 donors, the assessment of progress was unclear due to either an unclear commitment, an unclear progress report, or both. These assessments are broadly in line with the Action scorecards exercise undertaken earlier in 2015 (Action 2015), but there are some differences, primarily because Action did not have all the financial progress data at the time of its assessment. Donors should take more care to develop commit-

**TABLE 3.3** Assessment of donors' N4G commitments

Donor	Financial commitment	Policy/program commitments
Australia	Not clear	On course
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	On course	On course
Brazil	None	No response
Canada, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada	None	None
Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)	On course	On course
Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Save the Children	—	On course
European Union	Not clear	None
Finland	None	None
France	None	On course
Germany	Not clear	None
Ireland	On course	On course
Japan	None	On course
Netherlands	Off course (but close)	None
United Kingdom	On course	On course
UK Food Standards Agency	None	Off course
United States	Off course (but close)	On course
World Bank	On course	On course

**Source:** Authors, based on information from donors.

**Note:** Reached commitment = reached the 2020 N4G commitment. On course = progress made is on course for meeting the N4G commitment. Off course = not enough progress has been made toward the N4G commitment. None = no nonfinancial N4G commitment was made. Not clear = the commitment was too vague to assess whether the commitment was met, or the reported evidence on progress was too vague or only partially reported. No response = donor did not respond to requests for progress. — indicates "not applicable."

ments that are SMART (specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time bound).

Twelve donors made policy and program commitments, 11 of these responded to requests for progress, and 10 of these were assessed to be on course (Table 3.3).

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Civil society organizations (CSOs) made financial commitments as well as policy/program commitments, and the report tracked both. Of the 15 civil society organizations approached, 14 responded (Table 3.4).

As reported in 2014, many of the N4G commitments focus on nutrition-sensitive work and the linkages between nutrition; water, sanitation, and hygiene; agriculture; and health. In reviewing the progress, one gets a rich picture of the breadth of countries and populations that CSOs cover with their commitments.

## COMPANIES

Twenty-nine companies committed to putting good nutrition into their own workplace settings. Specifically, they

**TABLE 3.4 Assessment of CSOs' N4G commitments**

Civil society organization	Financial commitments	Policy/program commitments
Action Contre La Faim (ACF)	On course	Reached commitment
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	None	Not clear
Comic Relief	Not clear	None
Concern Worldwide	On course	None
Helen Keller International	None	On course
InterAction	On course	None
Mercy Corps	None	Not clear
Micronutrient Initiative	On course	Reached commitment
One Campaign	None	Off course
Oxfam	None	No response
Save the Children International	Off course <sup>a</sup>	On course
Sun CSO Alliance Zambia	None	On course
UK Biotech and Biological Science Research Council	None	Off course
Vegan Society	None	Off course
World Vision	On course	None

Source: Authors, based on information from CSOs.

Note: Reached commitment = reached the 2020 N4G commitment. On course = progress made is on course for meeting the N4G commitment. Off course = not enough progress has been made toward the N4G commitment. None = no N4G commitment was made. Not clear = the commitment was too vague to assess whether the commitment was met, or the reported evidence on progress was too vague or only partially reported. No response = CSO did not respond to requests for information. CSO = civil society organization.

<sup>a</sup> Save the Children International reported significant progress against its very substantial nutrition-sensitive commitments but fell just short, hence the assessment.

**TABLE 3.5 Summary of businesses' self-assessment of their N4G workforce commitments**

Responses	Number of companies with given responses on progress	
	Introduce a nutrition policy for a productive and healthy workforce	Improve policies for maternal health including support for breastfeeding mothers
1 = little or no progress	1	2
2 = some progress	6	7
3 = good progress	7	6
4 = final developmental stage	5	4
5 = partial rollout	3	3
6 = fully implemented	0	0
Total responses	22	22
No response	7	7
<b>Total number of businesses with workforce commitments</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>

Source: Authors, based on information from businesses.

stated that by June 2016 they would (1) introduce a nutrition policy for a productive and healthy workforce and (2) improve policies for maternal health including support for breastfeeding mothers in their workforce. It was anticipated that these steps would deliver improved nutrition, and consequently better productivity and health, for more than

1.2 million workforce members in more than 80 countries.

As in 2014, we worked with the SUN Business Network to send out requests and receive reports on these business commitments. Companies were asked to assign themselves a rating of between 1 and 6 where 1 = little or no progress, 2 = some progress, 3 = good progress, 4 = final

**TABLE 3.6** Assessment of businesses' N4G workforce commitments, by company

Company	Introduce a nutrition policy for a productive and healthy workforce	Size of affected workforce (healthy workforce)	Improve policies for maternal health including support for breastfeeding mothers	Size of affected workforce (breastfeeding)
Acciona	On course (5)	33,000	On course (5)	4,200
Ajinomoto	On course (3)	28,000	On course (3)	3,000
Anglo American	No response	No response	No response	No response
Aslan Group	No response	No response	No response	No response
Associated British Foods	Not clear (2)	106,000	Not clear (2)	Not applicable
Barclays	On course (3)	140,000	On course (3)	Not applicable
BASF	On course (4)	110,000	On course (5)	Not applicable
Bayer Crop Science	On course (4)	19,700	Not clear (2)	Not applicable
BP	Not clear (2)	80,000	Not clear (2)	Not applicable
Britannia Industries	No response	No response	No response	No response
Cargill	On course (3)	25,000	On course (3)	Not applicable
DSM	On course (3)	23,000	Not clear (2)	Not applicable
Gallup	On course (5)	2,400	On course (5)	100
GlaxoSmithKline	Not clear (2)	100,000	On course (4)	Not applicable
Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul)	No response	No response	No response	No response
GUTS Agro Industry	On course (4) <sup>a</sup>	300	On course (4)	100
Indofood	Not clear (2)	2,700	On course (3)	Not applicable
Infosys	Off course (1)	150,000	Off course (1)	Not applicable
KPMG	On course (3)	12,000	Not clear (2)	Not applicable
Lozane Farms	No response	No response	No response	No response
Malawi Mangoes	No response	No response	No response	No response
Marks and Spencer	No response	No response	No response	No response
Netafim	No response	2,000	No response	Not applicable
Rab Processors	On course (4)	1,500	On course (4)	Not applicable
Shambani	Not clear (2)	27	On course (3)	15
Syngenta	On course (3)	27,000	On course (3)	Not applicable
Tanseed	Not clear (2)	12	Off course (1)	Not applicable
Unilever	On course (3)	50,000	Not clear (2)	Not applicable
Waitrose	On course (5)	47,000	Not clear (2)	Not applicable

**Source:** Authors, based on information from SUN Business Network and companies.

**Note:** Codes are as follows: 1 = little or no progress; 2 = some progress; 3 = good progress; 4 = final developmental stage; 5 = partial rollout; 6 = fully implemented. Not applicable = companies were not asked to respond about the size of affected workforce if they ranked themselves from 1 to 4. No response = company did not respond. The report authors classified response 1 as "off course," response 2 as "not clear," and responses 3 and higher as "on course."

<sup>a</sup> Response went from 5 in 2014 to 4 in 2015.

developmental stage, 5 = partial rollout, and 6 = full implementation. Of the 29 companies tracked, 22 companies reported on their workforce commitments (Table 3.5).

As in 2014 we bring the business assessments in line with other N4G stakeholders by classifying the companies' progress as "on course" (a rating of 3–6), "off course" (a rating of 1), or "not clear" (a rating of 2). Results are shown in Table 3.6.

Forty-five percent (26 out of 58) of workforce commitments are "on course"—a marked improvement over

2014, when the corresponding figure was 31 percent. This brings the business workforce "on course" percentage in line with progress by other groups of N4G signatories (Figure 3.6).

This year and moving forward, we, along with the SUN Business Network, are asking companies to also provide updates on progress on all the commitments they made at N4G: workforce and nonworkforce related (the latter are summarized in Table 3.7). Of the 20 businesses that made nonworkforce commitments in the N4G Compact, we



**TABLE 3.7 Assessment of businesses' N4G nonworkforce commitments, by company**

Company	Summary of nonworkforce commitment	Nonworkforce commitment
Ajinomoto	Improve nutrition of 200,000 weaning children, 100,000 pregnant and lactating mothers, and 250,000 school-age children through Koko Plus supplement (Ghana Nutrition Improvement Project).	On course
BASF	Reach 60 million people each year with fortified staples and nutrition; conduct research to develop new nutrition solutions.	On course
Britannia	Reach 50,000 children with iron-fortified biscuits through public-private partnership with East Delhi Municipal.	No response
Cargill	Reach 200 small and medium-size enterprises in Africa south of the Sahara through Partners in Food Solutions; implement Nutriendo el Futuro (Nourishing the Future) initiative in Central America; promote micronutrient fortification of flour (Flour Fortification Initiative).	On course
Clifford Chance	Provide £1 million of pro bono legal services to ClIFF and partners, as well as governments, NGOs, and private-sector players, advising on specific legal matters related to implementing the N4G program.	No response
Del Agua	Reach 9 million people with access to clean water in Rwanda.	On course
DSM	Support improved nutrition for 50 million beneficiaries (with a focus on pregnant and lactating woman and children under two) per year by 2020; offer African and Africa-based private-sector N4G Compact partners and SUN Business Network signatories and their suppliers access to the products of DSM's Nutrition Improvement Program.	On course
Gallup	Reach 160,000 respondents for nutrition research in 150 countries (Voices of the Hungry) project.	No response
GlaxoSmithKline	Increase access to an affordable variant of Horlicks (the company's malted-milk drink containing 12 essential vitamins and minerals) by introducing and selling 300 million under-10-rupee sachets in Africa and India; donate up to 400 million albendazole treatments per year to WHO to treat school-age children for intestinal worms; continue to implement the Personal Hygiene and Sanitation Education (PHASE) program.	On course
GSMA	Provide mobile behavior-change messaging on nutrition and agriculture (mNutrition); secure partnerships with mobile network operators toward attainment of mNutrition objectives.	On course
Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul)	Increase access to ready-to-use therapeutic foods and foods to treat undernutrition, and reduce cost of treatment.	Not clear
GUTS Agro Industry	Invest US\$1.5 million to build manufacturing line with capacity of 3,000 metric tons for production of high-quality, low-cost, chickpea-based products in Ethiopia.	Off course
Mount Meru	Fortify all edible food oil in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia with vitamins A and D; support 500,000 farmers over seven years by promoting market creation and economic sustainability.	No response
Nirmal Seeds	Deliver biofortified crop varieties to millions of farmers.	No response
Rab Processors	Provide vitamin pre-mixes to fortify maize flour to national fortification alliance for all small millers in Malawi.	Not clear
SeedCo Zambia	Distribute fortified seed to 25,000 smallholder farmers.	No response
Sina Gerard	Double production and sales of Golden Power Biscuits, a product that replaces 45% of wheat flour with orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP), by the end of 2014; increase sales of other OFSP-based bakery products.	No response
Tanseed International	Develop biofortified products and improve livelihoods of 7,250 farm households; contract and train 1,813 smallholder farmers.	Not clear
UBS Optimus Foundation	With ClIFF and DFID, raise up to 25 million Swiss francs by 2020 from UBS clients to be matched by the other founding partners, thus mobilizing CHF 50 million for children's nutrition. The Optimus Foundation will guarantee CHF 10 million of this fundraising target.	On course
Unilever	Implement Project Laser Beam to reach 500,000 children with improved nutrition, 1 million with hygiene training in schools, and 3,000 women with improved livelihoods; change the hygiene behavior of 1 billion consumers; reach 2.5 million people through neonatal hand-washing programs.	Not clear

**Source:** Authors, based on information from SUN Business Network and companies.

**Note:** Reached commitment = reached the 2020 N4G commitment. On course = progress made is on course for meeting the N4G commitment. Off course = not enough progress has been made toward the N4G commitment. None = no N4G commitment was made. Not clear = the commitment was too vague to assess whether the commitment was met, or the reported evidence on progress was too vague or only partially reported. No response = company did not respond to requests for information.

**TABLE 3.8** Assessment of UN agencies' N4G commitments

UN agency	Policy/program commitments
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	On course
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Not clear
Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	On course
UNICEF	On course
UN Network	On course
World Food Programme (WFP)	On course
World Health Organization (WHO)	On course

**Source:** Authors, based on information from UN nutrition focal points.

**Note:** Reached commitment = reached the 2020 N4G commitment. On course = progress made is on course for meeting the N4G commitment. Off course = not enough progress has been made toward the N4G commitment. None = no N4G commitment was made. Not clear = the commitment was too vague to assess whether the commitment was met, or the reported evidence on progress was too vague or only partially reported. No response = UN organization did not respond to requests for information.

received 13 responses, 8 of which were on course (Table 3.7). Businesses have already had two years to prepare to report on nonworkforce commitments, and we expect a better reporting rate from them in 2016.

### UN AGENCIES

Seven UN agencies made N4G program and policy commitments, and all seven responded to requests for updates (Table 3.8).

Most of the UN signatories committed to several pledges per agency. The commitments were diverse, and fairly detailed evidence has been provided to assess progress against them. Six of the seven agencies were assessed as on course, with one "not clear."

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

We received responses from four of the five remaining organizations. The responses received are comprehensive, although they do not always correspond with the stated N4G commitments, making it difficult to tell if the organizations are on or off course. Those with "not clear" assessments need to take more care in responding to their stated commitments (Table 3.9).

## COMPARING 2014 AND 2015 ASSESSMENTS

Between 2014 and 2015, countries improved their ability to report decisively on their commitments (Figure 3.5).

In 2014, 40 percent of countries' commitments could be assessed as on or off course, whereas in 2015 that share rose to 46 percent. The same holds true of companies on their workforce commitments: in 2014, 40 percent of commitments were assessed as on or off course, and in 2015 the corresponding percentage was 50 percent. For civil society organizations this decisive percentage held firm at 78 percent, but the composition was different. In 2014 a greater share of that 78 percent consisted of on-course commitments than in 2015. Note that the 2015 data include donors' financial commitments and companies' nonworkforce commitments, whereas 2014 data do not.

## LESSONS FOR THE RIO 2016 NUTRITION FOR GROWTH SUMMIT

The follow-up to the London 2013 Nutrition for Growth Summit will take place in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. The 2016 Rio N4G Summit is an important opportunity to lock in meaningful commitments for nutrition. How can we make the most of the opportunity? This section makes five recommendations for existing and potential signatories on how to strengthen the accountability of the commitments made, based on the two rounds of assessment of progress against the 2013 commitments.

- 1. The Rio N4G pledges need to be SMART—that is, specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time-bound.** We conducted an analysis of all the London 2013 N4G commitments to determine which ones are specific (target a specific area for improvement), measurable (quantify or at least suggest an indicator of progress), assignable (specify who will

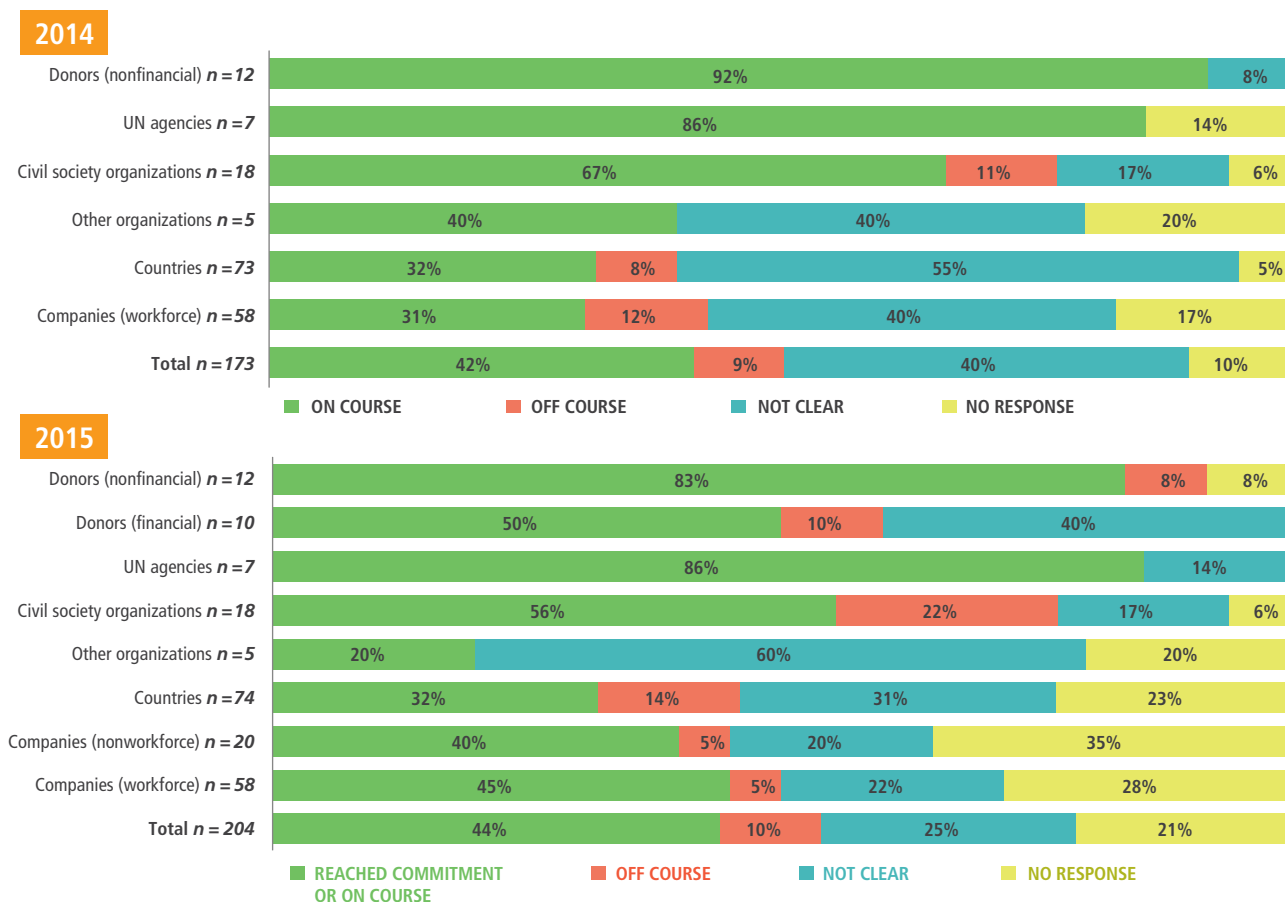
**TABLE 3.9** Assessment of other organizations' N4G commitments

Organization	Policy/program commitments
CABI	Not clear
CGIAR	Not clear
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)	On course
Grand Challenges Canada	Not clear
Naandi Foundation	No response

**Source:** Authors, based on information from "Other organizations."

**Note:** Reached commitment = reached the 2020 N4G commitment. On course = progress made is on course for meeting the N4G commitment. Not clear = the commitment was too vague to assess whether the commitment was met, or the reported evidence on progress was too vague or only partially reported. No response = Other organization did not respond to requests for progress.

**FIGURE 3.5** Summary of progress against N4G commitments, 2014 and 2015



Source: Authors.

Note: n = the number of commitments by signatories in each category. Also, note that the number of country commitments is 74 in 2015 and 73 in 2014. This is because in 2014 Ethiopia did not separate out its N4G commitments into program and policy components. In 2015 it did so and reported against them.

do it), realistic (state what results can realistically be achieved given available resources), and time-bound (specify when the result can be achieved) (Doran 1981). We placed special emphasis on specific, measurable, and time-bound, given that assignability is fairly clear at the signatory level and that it is difficult to assess realism from an external perspective. The two authors of this chapter each undertook an independent assessment of each commitment based on these criteria and then reconciled any differences found. Too many of the London pledges, the results showed, are vague. Only 30 percent of the commitments made during the N4G can be described as specific, measurable, or time-bound (Figure 3.6).

For pledgers in Rio to be held accountable, it will not be sufficient to state that, for example, “Agency X will work toward reducing malnutrition” or that “Country Y commits to implement the Rome Declaration and its Framework.” Rather, commitments will need to be framed in a SMART way—for example,

“Country X will reduce overweight in children under 5 years by X percent by year XXXX.”

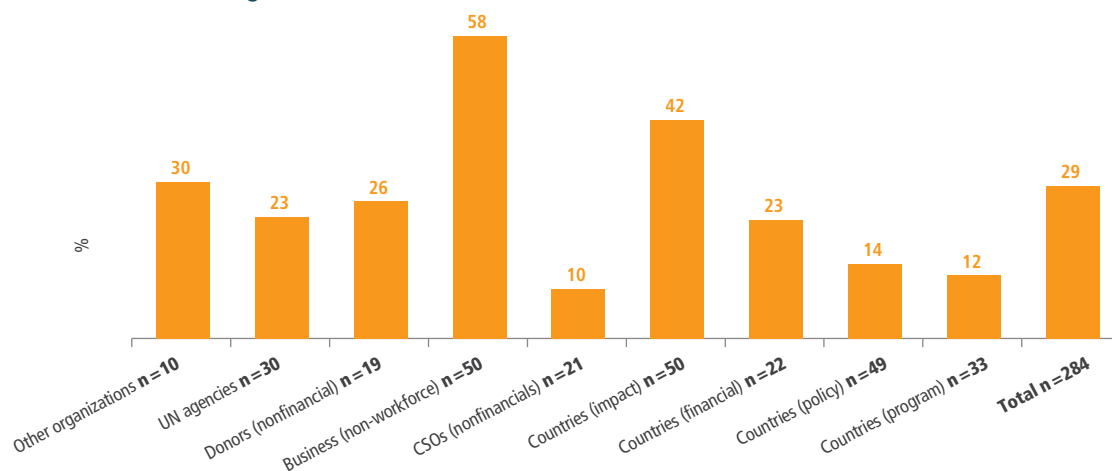
**2. A commitment to act goes hand in hand with a commitment to report.**

Failing to report on commitments undermines accountability. Compared with 2014, stakeholders’ reporting on their N4G commitments in 2015 was down. This is disappointing to say the least. While we will reflect on whether the reporting process we set up discouraged reporting, it is important for N4G signatories to increase their willingness to report on their commitments.

**3. Reporting needs to be against the commitment.**

The lack of clarity about progress reported represents a failure not only to formulate SMART commitments, but also to report clearly against the commitments as made. Too often, signatories reported general progress without any reference to the 2013 N4G commitment even though we had reminded them what they actually committed to.

**FIGURE 3.6** Percentage of 2013 N4G commitments assessed as SMART



Source: Authors.

Note: n = number of commitments made in the London N4G Summit. SMART = specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time bound.

**4. Commitments need to be reasonably ambitious.**

Many N4G commitments made in London were of limited ambition. Examples include statements that a signatory will spend “up to” a certain amount by a certain date or that a signatory will “stay engaged” with another signatory over a certain time period. Commitments need to be realistic, with a reasonable chance of being met, but not so small in scope as to be nearly pointless.

**5. Greater clarity is needed on the provenance of each N4G commitment.** A few signatories claimed not to know where the 2013 London N4G commitment originated within their country or organization. Obviously this undermines ownership of the commitment and hence accountability. The origin or provenance of the commitment must be clearly documented for the Rio N4G pledges.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

**Signatories of the Nutrition for Growth Compact**, adopted in 2013, should carry out their commitments and give full reports on their progress to the *Global Nutrition Report* team for publication in 2016. At the 2016 N4G Rio Summit, **more governments, international agencies, external funders, civil society organizations, and businesses** need to make ambitious N4G commitments, which should be specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time bound (SMART). These commitments from existing and new signatories should aim to achieve the WHA global nutrition targets by 2025 and, in line with the SDGs, end malnutrition by 2030.

- 1. All signatories to the N4G Compact** should report on implementation of their commitments to the *Global Nutrition Report* team. In 2015, fewer signatories responded to requests to report on their commitments than in 2014. The share of signatories who are “on-course” for meeting their commitments remains below 50 percent.
- 2. Existing N4G signatories** should seek to widen the N4G circle of commitment by inviting additional governments, international agencies, external funders, civil society organizations, and businesses to make SMART and ambitious pledges at the 2016 N4G Summit. At the moment, the N4G Compact has only 110 signatories, and nearly all of them are concerned with undernutrition rather than with malnutrition in all its forms.
- 3. Civil society organizations** should take the lead on developing a “good pledge guide and template” in time for the 2016 N4G Summit. This would help **existing and new N4G signatories** to “SMART-en” their commitments. Only 30 percent of current commitments are SMART. The template would embed SMART principles and be used to evaluate draft commitments at the 2016 N4G Summit.
- 4. The Global Nutrition Report Stakeholder Group** should commission an **independent body** to undertake a one-time evaluation of the process for assessing N4G commitments and make public recommendations for strengthening it. Current methods are limited since they rely on self-assessment by signatories and independent review by the *Global Nutrition Report* cochairs and Secretariat.